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Moscow's (Too) Brilliant Opening Play at Geneva

As *Realpolitik,* Soviet moves in the Middle East are brilliant. On the chessboard of world politics, Moscow has countered the formation of the northern tier alliance against her by moving toward an understanding of her own with the southern tier of Arab States. The flank of the Turkish-Iranian-Iraqi-Pakistani line has been turned almost as soon as it was formed. When Washington split the Arab league, building a new Mideastern bloc based on Iraq, Moscow replied by building one of her own, based on Egypt. The world's most ancient and enduring rivalry, that between the empires of the Nile and of the Euphrates-Tigris, was thus skilfully utilized by the world's newest rivalry. The Bagdad pact was intended to seal off the last gap in the line of hostile bases around the Soviet Union, but the understanding with Cairo has for the first time in years enabled the Russians to emerge into the Mediterranean, and exercise a direct influence on the Arab world and North Africa. And this at a time when the decay of French power and the rebirth of Israel have created such turmoil that the Russians through Cairo—the headquarters of the North African Nationalists and the dominant Arab influence on Syria and Saudi Arabia—may make our bomber bases untenable and our Arab oil sources precarious.

Making Trouble Is Not Making Peace

A few swift moves have completely transformed the scene as the new Geneva parley opens. A few months ago Bulganin and Krushchev went to Geneva as petitioners for a world *detente* and peace, happy to find President Eisenhower of like mind. Now Russia through Molotov squarely occupies the center of the stage, ready to receive the petitions of the Western powers and of Israel. The measure of Molotov's bargaining power is his potential for making trouble. In the Middle East an Arab-Israeli arms race may easily lead to war, and not a war easily contained. But this new bargaining power was acquired at a price, and Moscow had better consider that price carefully. It cannot make itself the world spokesman for disarmament, and at the same time cynically foment an arms race in the Middle East. It cannot win world sympathy by arguing the case for co-existence in the H-bomb era, and at the same time stoke the fires of war in a most inflammable area.

The world is sick of *Realpolitik;* the Germans coined the term and mastered the practice only to find that while it can start world wars, it cannot win them. The new Russian moves are too clever. The problem, if they want arms reduction and peace, is to allay American anxieties, to help the world cool off, to create an atmosphere in which American forward bases may be withdrawn and the new realities like Communist China recognized. This cannot be achieved by suddenly threatening the entire American strategic picture from Casablanca to Karachi just when Eisenhower had routed the American rightists and begun to sell the American public on peace and co-existence.

The Trend Toward Neutrality

It is a pity that at this juncture American leadership has neither the subtlety nor the flexibility to counter the Russian moves in the way the world as a whole needs to see them countered. Everyone by now is impressed with the victories of Soviet diplomacy in the past few months, but how many people in this country are prepared to recognize much less advocate the course which made them possible? Moscow has strengthened its position since Stalin died by swallowing a whole series of bitter pills. The idea of a neutral "Third Force" between the contending big powers was scorned by the Communists as a liberal fraud and delusion. Tito was a traitor. Adenauer was a scoundrelly puppet of the West. The Russians emerged out of isolation by recognizing realities—the strength of the desire for neutrality and peace, the survival of Tito, the reality of Adenauer. They are now even wooing Franco. The U.S. could win a similar victory by recognizing Peking and freeing Communist China from dependence on Moscow. *Basically the strength of the Russian position is its willingness to recognize the desire of "the powers in-between" for neutrality.* Dulles was never more wrong than when he told the American Legion on October 10, "neutrality today is an obsolete conception." On the contrary, the danger of atomic war has made neutrality necessary for the smaller powers, their economic revival has made it possible, and the new upsurge of nationalism and anti-colonialism has made it popular. To go with this tide is to gain power to mold events and the U.S. could gain the initiative by offering to neutralize Germany if Moscow neutralizes Eastern Europe.

The key to peace everywhere lies in this neutralization of the areas in-between, beginning with the Middle East and Germany. The American effort to use these areas as forward bases is bankrupt, primarily because under present conditions war would certainly and completely destroy them. Neutralization and joint guarantees against aggression under United Nations auspices represent the way out. Nothing could be worse for both Israel and the Arab countries than to become pawns in a great Power game. Nothing could be worse for Europe than to see the Germans rearmed East and West for the same kind of play. The swift revival of the old Nazi leadership in the Saar, the encouragement given the worst German tendencies by the freeing of such murderers as the SS General responsible for the Malmedy massacre, are warnings both Washington and Moscow had better heed while there is time. What happened at Saarlouis may happen next in Breslau and Koenigsberg. New directions were never more badly needed than at this moment in Geneva.

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Eastland and McCarthy Lend A Hand in A Local School Board Election

Virginia Racists Fight Desegregation in The Shadow of The Capitol

By Marvin Caplan

Arlington, Va.

Only six miles from the U. S. Supreme Court, racist Southern diehards are demonstrating the kind of tactics they are ready to use to preserve segregation.

The occasion is an off-year election in Arlington County, Va., just across the Potomac River from Washington. On Nov. 8, Arlingtonians will vote for three representatives to the state House of Delegates, two County Board and three School Board members. It should have been a very ordinary campaign. But any School Board race in which Senators Eastland and McCarthy lend a helping hand cannot be considered ordinary.

"It is annoying, perplexing, baffling—and odd," says Kathryn Stone, Democratic incumbent for the House, commenting on the local situation. For one thing, she says, none of the real issues have been discussed. Public meetings tend to bog down into discussions of integration versus segregation in the public schools.

A White Collar Klan

The integration issue was injected into the campaign by the local chapter of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties. That is Virginia's version of the white Citizen Councils that have sprung up throughout the South in reaction to the Supreme Court school decision. Like the others, it is a kind of white collar Klan, drawing much support from prominent, well-to-do Virginians.

In Arlington, the Defenders are not running any candidates of their own. But in the County and School Board races they back the candidates of the non-partisan Arlington Independent Movement, or AIM. Opposing the AIM nominees are candidates chosen at large public conventions of delegates from county civic groups. These conventions are necessarily non-partisan since, under the Hatch act, Federal employees who live in Arlington may only campaign actively for non-partisan candidates.

"We're the conservatives, they're the left-wingers," an AIM worker said in explanation of the difference between the two slates. Convention candidates find the labels meaningless. It may be more accurate to say that the Convention group attracts public-spirited couples from the young business executive, professional, government worker set that has moved into the county; while AIM attracts ultra-conservative businessmen, Byrd Democrats and native Southerners. Only one AIM candidate, Willis Kern, running for School Board, is an admitted Defender.

Only 5 Percent Colored

Considering the large cosmopolitan element in the county and the fact that only about 5 percent of its school children are colored, Convention candidates say integration was never much of an issue until the Defenders raised the racial issue. They run daily "Defendergrams" in the local county paper, quoting choice racist tidbits. They attacked Mrs. Stone in two ads because her children have attended an interracial private school. They recently held a meeting at which Charles C. Tansill, Prof. of American Diplomatic History at Georgetown University, delivered a tirade against FEPC, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the NAACP and called Negroes "syphilitic morons."

The Defenders and local groups that side with them also receive assistance from outside the state. A speech by Senator Eastland attacking the Supreme Court decision went out under his frank. On another occasion, a local group was able to obtain confidential material from Sen. McCarthy purporting to show that an educator whom the School Board brought in to address the teachers belonged to a Communist front organization.

A Touch of Anti-Semitism

It is not surprising, either, to find a touch of anti-Semitism in the campaign. One of the candidates for the County Board is Jewish and he has received several crank letters and has had his religion called to the attention of voters by an AIM candidate.

A Defendergram attacking the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man [see box below] has provoked hostile criticism. This has led Kern to sue each of the five Convention candidates for $150,000 because they sent a letter to voters pointing out that he had admitted "without embarrassment that his group (the Defenders) placed this attack against religion in our local newspapers." Perhaps the most significant evidence of retreat from the Defenders' position was the public announcement by the AIM chairman disavowing any connection with the Defenders.

"Phonics" and Racism

A visit to AIM headquarters in the old Sombrero restaurant in Clarendon, however, suggests that if there is no formal connection there may still be an ideological one. The three AIM ladies at work on a mailing said at first that segregation was not a big issue in the campaign. One talked learnedly of "phonics" and it developed that Rudolph Flesch, author of "Why Johnnie Can't Read," is a hero of opponents of "new-fangled teaching methods" introduced into Arlington by the present School Board.

But then: one deplored the fact that Negroes have no pride of race. And why couldn't they learn from the Jews? "You've had pride of race inculcated in you since you were as high as that typewriter table," she told the reporter. And another spoke scathingly of the "Jews and white trash" in the NAACP and the presence of these elements in the Convention group. These sentiments sound like Defendergrams.

The specific threat is to Arlington's school system. During the past 8 years the schools have been improved to where they are nationally recognized for their excellence. That achievement was the work of County and School Boards controlled by people now active in the Convention group. Recently AIM gained control of the County Board and has expressed its hostility to the School Board by cutting its budget and criticizing educational methods. If it wins next month, which at the moment seems unlikely, it will control the schools for the next four years. That might mean not only the deterioration of the schools but end any possibility of integrating them.

The Convention group says integration is no issue now because no Board can bring it about or stop it until the state acts. Yet given the opportunity, a Convention board might be sympathetic toward integration. The election's outcome may show how effective Defender methods are, in border areas where the Solid South has begun to show a few cracks.

Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man "Just Softsoap"

"It's the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man softsoap that gets a lot of folks. It sounds so good when it goes sloshing into one's ears. It sounds as sweet and clean as Ivory . . . but if one will hang on to his sanity and take a little time to analyze it, he'll find it isn't anywhere near 99.44% pure. As a matter of fact, it's the other way 'round. —Then, My Old Kentucky Home, Good Night!"

—One of a series of daily "Defendergrams" inserted in the local *Daily Sun* by the Arlington, Va. chapter of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties in an attempt to influence voters in the current race for County Board, School Board and House of Delegates.

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On the Civil Liberties Front: Medina Reversed in Communist Case

Fifth Amendment Discharge of Schoolteacher Overruled by Phila. Court

A Philadelphia schoolteacher discharged after pleading the Fifth amendment before the House Un-American Activities Committee won a victory in the Pennsylvania courts last week. A three man bench in the Court of Common Pleas (Bok, Flood and Levinthal) unanimously reversed the dismissal of Herman A. Beilan, a high school teacher of English. The decision held that Beilan's refusal to answer a question as to whether he was a member of the Communist Political Association eight years ago "was obviously not relevant to the issue of his present competency as a teacher." The Philadelphia Board of Education (with its respected President, Walter Biddle Saul, dissenting) had held that invocation of the Fifth constituted incompetence and therefore was grounds for dismissal under the state's Tenure Act.

The full text of the decision may be found in the October 21 issue of *The Legal Intelligencer* in Philadelphia. The Court noted that the State Legislature since 1953 had twice refused to enact bills by Senator Pechan (author of the Loyalty Act of 1951) which would have provided for the removal of public servants who refuse to testify on constitutional grounds. The Court held that if Beilan was suspected of disloyalty, the Board of Education had to follow the procedure outlined in the Loyalty Act, but this would require hearing and proof that Beilan was presently a "subversive" person as defined in it.

The Slochower Case

A similar but more fundamental question is raised by the Slochower case argued before the Supreme Court last week. Dr. Harry Slochower, a professor of German at Brooklyn College, winner of a Bollingen Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, was dismissed after he denied present membership in the Communist Party but took the Fifth as to membership before 1941. A New York City Charter provision adopted two decades ago in the Seabury investigation of Tammany corruptionists was the basis of the teacher's dismissal. The Charter says a city official or employe who invokes his privilege against self-incrimination when asked a question about city affairs by any legislative committee empowered to investigate them shall be dismissed. One of the questions before the Court is whether such dismissal violates basic constitutional rights. The Court may dodge this difficult question and decide the case instead on easier grounds. Was there a reasonable relationship between Dr. Slochower's employment as a teacher and a question as to whether he had been a Communist more than a decade earlier? Ephraim London, his counsel, also made much of the fact that the chairman of the Senate committee insisted at the original hearing that it had nothing to do with Dr. Slochower's "official conduct."

Briefs Amicus Rejected

The Supreme Court last week refused to accept two briefs amicus offered in support of the California Smith Act appellants. One was signed by 24 California Methodist ministers headed by the Rev. Howard R. Carey of Altadena, and the other was by a group of 19 headed by the Nobel pribe winner, Linus Pauling.

Supervisory Parole

An anti-Communist decision by Circuit Judge Medina of Foley Square fame was reversed by the Supreme Court last week. The reversal means that a group of fourteen aliens ordered deported for Communist Party membership have won the first round in their fight against the supervisory parole provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act. Three "second echelon" leaders convicted under the Smith Act—Betty Gannett, Alexander Bittleman and Claudia Jones—are among the fourteen. The McCarran-Walter Act provides that aliens who cannot be deported because they are stateless or their native lands will not receive them must thereafter live under severe restrictions. They must report to the immigration services regularly, submit to medical and psychiatric examination if necessary, "give information under oath" as to their political associations and activities, and conform to travel and other regulations prescribed by the Attorney General, under penalty of $1,000 fine or a year in jail.

The 14 aliens went into court for a judgment declaring such supervisory orders unconstitutional and an order forbidding their enforcement. But a three judge statutory court (Medina, McGohey and Weinfeld) dismissed the action on the ground that it presented no "case or controversy" and the orders could not be contested until one of the aliens had been arrested for refusing to obey them. The Supreme Court reversed and ordered a trial on the merits.

Loyalty Quiz Dropped

After protests from the American Jewish Congress, the CIO Insurance Workers Union and other groups, the New York State Insurance Department last week dropped its plan to subject license applicants to loyalty tests. It had planned to ask whether they had ever belonged to any one of 130 blacklisted organizations. The department's precipitate retreat represents the first victory of the kind in the current fight against the witch hunt.

U. S. Press Ignores Acquittal of Woman Accused by Petrovs

When Olga and Vladimir Petrov defected to the West in August, 1954, they named Mme. Rose-Marie Ollier, a vice consul clerk in the French Embassy at Canberra, Australia, as one of their informants. Mme. Ollier was sent home under heavy guard.

The U.S. press, which widely reported the charges against her, accepting them as true, almost entirely ignored her acquittal by a military court in Paris last week. A four paragraph United Press dispatch in the *New York Times* of October 21 was the only reference we saw in the American press, and this did not tell why she was acquitted.

The London papers of October 21 and *Le Monde* of October 22 carried fuller reports, however. Headlines in the latter hailed Mme. Ollier as the victim of a "too hasty witch hunt" (*chasse a sorcieres*). Mme. Ollier was originally charged with betraying state secrets but this was reduced to "negligence" last winter after the Australian inquiry "proved," *Le Monde* said, "that Petrov had been boasting and that his own chiefs had reproached him for having obtained nothing from the French woman diplomat."

At the trial Mme. Ollier admitted having visited with Petrov outside her home and office but said she did so when he told her he was afraid of being denounced by his colleagues for consorting with Western diplomats.

On one occasion, when she asked where Mme. Petrov was, he said she was busy decoding messages and complained that the Russian code "is a very complicated one and has to be burned every night." Then he asked Mme. Ollier, "What is your code like?" Mme. Ollier testified that she replied that she had no idea because her job was looking after the archives. She said she was surprised by the remark but colud not be sure it was asked with evil intent. She said this was the only time the code was mentioned.

When asked by the court why she had not reported this to her Ambassador (the "negligence" charge was in failure to report), Mme. Ollier said he was not very accessible and would only have laughed and said, "Ollier is discovering Russian spies."

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Politics at Home and Abroad: Diem Imitates Frank Hague

Harriman's Real Goal to be Stevenson's Secretary of State?

Political Scuttlebutt: Reported here in fairly well informed circles (which doesn't make it necessarily reliable) that Harriman's real game is to gather enough delegates to exact the two jobs of Secretary of State (himself) and Postmaster General (De Sapio) from Stevenson. . . . Senator Russell's assumption that Chief Justice Warren will be the candidate if Eisenhower doesn't run again dovetails with other reports that the Chief Justice will change his mind and accept the nomination if there is any danger that Nixon might otherwise get the nomination. . . .

Democracy, Jersey City Variety: Judging by the referendum results, Premier Diem of Vietnam must have studied democracy under Frank Hague. Even Jersey City never dared turn in a better-than-98-percent majority. U.S. press agencies never did a better job of covering up the realities of an election but Philip Potter of the *Baltimore Sun* writing from Saigon (Oct. 24) provided some glimpses of just how controlled and one-sided the voting was. "Diem has ruled," Potter cabled, "as a one-man government whose censors sit in every newspaper office and stifle the voice of criticism. He and his followers have formed youth organizations which help enforce his will." Now Diem will block the Indochinese elections pledged for next July at the Geneva parley. His ground is that free elections cannot be guaranteed in the North! . . . *Reuters* throws entirely different light on the Diem election. It reported (Oct. 24) that about half the eligible voters had abstained; that in several towns the number of votes counted exceeded the number of electors by 30 percent; and that in Saigon "by 11 a.m. many presiding officials found themselves almost alone [in the polling places] with security officers and no voters." Perhaps they just went on counting to while away the time. . . .

Note for Farmers: While hog prices are lower than at any time since 1946, a New York *Journal of Commerce* market survey from Chicago (Oct. 25) reports "Packer Profit Margins Improve" and the meat packers expect 1955 net to show a sharp rise over 1954. . . .

"Protection"? That delegation of 32 from Chicago, including 7 Negro ministers, who came here last week to ask Federal action in the Till murder were shadowed by the police everywhere they went. Chicago police tried to intimidate and dissuade them from making the trip. Here, on arrival at Washington's Dunbar hotel, they found the place surrounded by police. Six police motorcycles and three full police cars followed them Monday morning to Vice President Nixon's office, to Attorney General Brownell's office and on a sight seeing trip in between. They got a cold shoulder everywhere. Neither Nixon nor his Administrative Assistant was on hand to see them, though an appointment had been made in advance, and they were forced to leave a statement with the receptionist. Brownell was also "out" at Justice. . . .

IFS to speak: With Carl Braden at Meridian Hill Baptist Church, 1725 Kalorama Road, NW., Washington, D. C., at 8:30 p.m. Friday November 4.

Chaplin No Longer News

This letter by Charles Chaplin, protesting the refusal of passports on political grounds, was released in New York last week by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in connection with Rockwell Kent's suit to obtain a passport without signing a non-Communist affidavit. The letter was turned down for publication by the *New York Times*, the *AP* and the *UP* but sent out by *Reuters*, the British world news service. It has not been printed in any American newspaper, so effective is the self-imposed blanket of conformity. The text follows:

"The natural right of every free man to travel is being violated more and more by the unscrupulous withholding of passports. The situation is most alarming. For every American today, whether he knows it or not, is a prisoner on probation, with a chain around his leg to be drawn in by a jailer at any time he may disagree with the political policy makers who are in temporary power. And who knows that what we agree about today, we may disagree about tomorrow.

"Such international artists as Paul Robeson and Rockwell Kent, whose art is a credit to America and whose art has enriched understanding between America and Europe, are chained by this vicious and dangerous policy. To deny the right to travel to Americans held in such general respect abroad is stupid and inhuman. It destroys American prestige and creates doubt and suspicion in the countries whose friendship America most needs.

"This is not a plea for American artists in chains, but for every American over whose fundamental freedom this menacing shadow is creeping. The violation of the right to travel affects every aspect of American democracy and freedom. That is why nothing can be of greater importance than this effort by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee."

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